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XV.—*Fifth List of Birds from the Hill Ranges of the North-East Frontier of India.*—By Major H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, F. R. G. S., F. Z. S., Deputy Superintendent Topographical Survey of India.

(Recd. September;—Read Dec. 6th, 1876.)

(With Plates V, VI, & IX.)

The present list includes birds principally from the Munipur Hills, obtained by Messrs. Ogle and Robert in the field season of 1873—74, by Mr. A. W. Chennell in the Eastern Nágá Hills, and by myself in the Khási Hills in 1875. The above-named members of No. 6 Topographical Survey Party deserve not only my best thanks but those of all interested in ornithology for devoting so much of their spare time to this branch of natural history. Mr. Robert in particular has added a number of new species by his zeal in collecting, and I am glad his name is now associated with one of the most interesting of the birds discovered, *viz.*, a *Sphenocichla*. All the new forms were described in a joint paper by Viscount Walden (now Marquis of Tweeddale) and myself, published in 'The Ibis' in 1875, but I have given the descriptions again in full. During the past winter (1875—76), Messrs. Ogle and Chennell have made another collection in the Nágá Hills, and we may therefore expect a few more novelties, as new country on the eastward has been penetrated and surveyed, and for this purpose many of the higher peaks were ascended and cleared. The people (Nágás) have been most hostile throughout the season, and as it must have been almost impossible for the shikaris to be much about by themselves in the jungle, I do not anticipate a very large collection.

The addition of the following 36 species brings up the record from the eastern districts and hill-frontier to 528 species, a number which, with so many zealous collectors in the party, I trust will be still further augmented before the survey is completed.

16. *HYPOTRIORCHIS CHICQUERA*, Daud.

From Sylhet.

18. *ERYTHROPUS (CERCHNEIS) PEKINENSIS*, Swinhoe.

This specimen was submitted for identification to Mr. Gurney, who says it is too immature in plumage to enable him to decide whether it is really the above or the European species, and who, moreover, doubts the validity of *E. Pekinensis*. But as birds from the Nágá Hills are far more likely to be similar to those from China, I have given it Swinhoe's title, following Jerdon in his 'Supplemental Notes to the 'Birds of India'' in 'The Ibis' for 1871.

25. *ACCIPITER VIRGATUS*, Temm.

Obtained by Mr. Chennell near Debrughur.

41a. *POLIOAETUS PLUMBEUS*, Hodgson.

I have a fine specimen, evidently a female, from the Nágá Hills, agreeing with Dr. Jerdon's description in his Supplementary Notes (*op. supra cit.* p. 336). This was sent for identification to Mr. Gurney, who in reply says—"The one marked *humilis* is *plumbeus* of Hodgson, which I think must be admitted as a good species." Mr. Sharpe, in his 'Catalogue of the Accipitres', does not recognize *P. plumbeus*, but places it as a synonym of *P. ichthyaetus*, considering Hodgson's drawing an unfinished picture of the large species; but Hodgson surely would not have omitted, even in an unfinished drawing, the broad white bar on the tail, the colouration of the tail being the most important character both in *P. humilis* and *P. plumbeus*.

The description of the bird now recorded will run as follows:

On back and shoulder of wing pale umber-brown, with ash-coloured feathers coming in on the centre of back; the tail is of the same colour but darker, increasing in intensity to the end, with no white save at the very roots of the rectrices. Head hoary grey, passing into ashy brown on the nape, with an admixture of some pure plumbeous feathers. The primaries are very dark umber-brown, some of the larger coverts splashed with a more rufous paler brown, the traces of the previous phase of colouration; the first

and second are inside slightly mottled with white on the inner web. Side of head and the chin ashy, passing into hair-brown on the breast. Thighs, abdomen, and under tail-coverts pure white. The lower back has vinous reflections in certain lights.

I have been able to compare this fish-eagle with a male of *P. humilis* from Malacca, and although the plumage is almost identical, save for the greyer tint of the latter, the difference in size is more remarkable. The Nágá bird is in point of size of wing and tail nearly equal to *P. ichthyaetus* but with far feebler bill and talons. *P. plumbeus* would appear to be the more robust Indian representative of the smaller Malayan *P. humilis*.

94. CHELIDON NIPALENSIS, Hodgson.

From Konchungbum.

135b. ALCEDO BEAVANI, Walden.

Comparing a very large series of *A. Asiatica* (= *Meninting*, Horsfd.), *A. Moluccensis*, and *A. Beavani*, the distinctly rich lazuline tint of the upper surface in *A. Asiatica* is most apparent. In *A. Moluccensis* and *A. Beavani* this blue has a greenish tinge of torquoise, while beneath *A. Beavani* has the rich sienna-brown of *A. Asiatica*. Such slight differences of colour as those mentioned above are very subtle, but, though in many forms they are very constant when a number of birds are placed side by side, it is quite impossible to settle such fine points of divergence by comparison with coloured plates, as, I notice, is occasionally done. My specimen was obtained on the Sussa river, near Debrughur.

W. 2·67 inches, T. 1·2, F. 0·35, Bf. 1·7.

It agrees exactly with specimens from Cochin China in Lord Walden's collection.

I have examined 23 skins of *A. Asiatica* from the following places, Eastern (Soerabaya) and Western Java, Sarawak, Malacca, Lombok, Togian Islands, Marúp, Penang, Labuan, and Macassa; 6 specimens of *A. Moluccensis*, from Cebebes, N. Ceram, Jololo, and Amboyna (type); and 6 examples of *A. Beavani* from Sadya, Debrughur, the Andamans, Manbaum, Burmah, and Cochin China.

160a. PICUS ATRATUS, Blyth.

A specimen of this woodpecker obtained at Thingra in the Manipur Hills agrees with Burmese examples. It has been lately figured by Lord Walden in the 'Ibis' for July 1876, in his interesting notes on the late Colonel Tickell's fine series of excellent and truthful drawings of Indian birds, which, with the MSS., have been presented to the Zoological Society of London.

160*b*. PICUS MANDERINUS, Gould, var.

This species has for its nearest ally in these districts *P. majoroides*, but the outer tail-feathers are white with narrow black bars, in contradistinction to *P. majoroides*, in which they are black with broad white ones.

Above it is the counterpart of *P. majoroides*: the back, wing, and tail rich velvety black; spots on the wing-feathers moderate; a very large and conspicuous white wing-patch formed by the secondary coverts; a scarlet band on the nape; a white frontal band extends through the eye to the ear-coverts and side of the neck, the portion near base of bill and the ear-coverts being pale flaxen. Beneath: the chin white; throat and upper breast earth-brown, with a pale scarlet gorget bordering a black patch, which, commencing at the gape, widens and extends down the side of the neck, a few pure white feathers separating this from the earth-brown of the throat; flanks white; the tail has the two outer feathers white, barred with black on inner web, the outermost has two spots on the white outer web, and in the penultimate this web is entirely white; tips of the four outer tail-feathers ferruginous; the abdomen and under tail-coverts are crimson. Bill dark plumbeous, rather stouter and blunter than that of *P. majoroides*; legs equal in size.

L. about 8 inches, W. 5·0, T. 3·68, t. 0·85, Bf. 1·17.

HAB.—Was obtained by Mr. Wm. Robert at Gonglong, Manipur Hills.

It differs from *P. manderinus*, Gld., in being smaller, in the white on the wings being more conspicuous, in being browner on the throat and breast, and in its whiter tail. In the specimen of *P. manderinus* in the British Museum with which I compared it, the outer web of the penultimate tail-feather has a black spot.

238*a*. DICEUM OLIVACEUM, Walden.

A specimen from Samaguting turns out to be identical with those from Tonghu, Burmah. Blyth must have been mistaken when he says he saw *D. minimum* in abundance at Moulmein: the species he saw must have been either *D. virescens* or *D. olivaceum*, probably the former.

245. CERTHIA DISCOLOR, Blyth.

L. about 5·75 inches, W. 2·54, T. 2·9, t. 0·60, Bf. 0·58.

Naga Hills.

248. SITTA HIMALAYENSIS, Jard. and Selby.

Aimul, Manipur Hills.

There are several skins in the collection. Interesting as being the first record of this nut-hatch so far to the eastward.

W. 3·0 inches, T. 1·70, t. 0·65, Bf. 0·60.

303. *CYORNIS UNICOLOR*, Blyth.

This bird, hitherto only obtained in Sikkin, I have from the Khasi Hills. Among Col. Tickell's drawings there is one of this species under the title *Eumyias melanops* (*vide* Lord Walden in op. supra. cit., p. 353), shewing that it extends southwards into Akyab.

317. *ANTHIPES MONILIGER*, Hodgson.

Gonglong, Manipur Hills.

332*a*. *PNOEPYGA ROBERTI*, Wald. and Aust.

The following is the original description of this species published in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 252.

"Above olive-brown, each feather pale-centred and fringed or tipped with dark brown. Loes albescent. Between the eyes and the rictus black. A well-defined streak extending from above the eye down each side of the head, fulvous. Ear-coverts cinereous at base, brown towards the tips. Chin and throat pure white, each throat-feather being terminated by a small black triangular drop; as the tips of the feathers overlap, these drops form continuous black lines, the two principal ones descending from the angles of the under mandible. Cheeks ferruginous, each feather with a black terminal drop. Pectoral and abdominal feathers pale brown, with broad pure white or fulvous-white centres. Under tail-coverts bright ferruginous yellow. Plumage on the rump loose, soft, and dense, completely concealing the short tail, and being of an almost uniform ferruginous brown colour. Wings when closed, dark chocolate-brown, most intense on the secondaries. Most of the wing-coverts distinctly tipped with almost pure white, so also the inner tertiary quills. Rectrices chocolate-brown."

"Bill from nostril 0·37 inch, wing 2·15, tarsus 0·75, tail 1·15."

This bird was found at Asakú and also at Chakha in the Manipur hills. In my first list it is recorded under the name of *Pnoepyga caudata*, Blyth. It closely resembles *Turdinus brevicaudatus*, especially in the upper plumage, but may be at once distinguished by its smaller size and diminutive tail.

332*b*. *PNOEPYGA CHOCOLATINA*, Wald. and G-Aust.

Described in 'The Ibis,' Vol. V, 1875, p. 252, as follows:—

"Above olive brown, each feather fringed with a somewhat fainter tint, thus imparting a subdued scaly aspect to the back. Wings and tail chocolate-brown. Upper and under tail-coverts ferruginous brown, brightest on the under coverts. Lower surface generally ferruginous brown, many of the abdominal feathers being largely centred with white or fulvous white. Pectoral feathers with minute terminal white drops, or some with narrow

white or fulvous white centres. A few almost white feathers on the middle of the breast. Chin white; gular feathers white, with pale fulvous or ferruginous edges. Bill dark brown. Legs pale flesh-colour."

"Bill from nostrils 0·25 inch, wing 1·87, tarsus 0·75, tail 1·75."

"Described from a specimen obtained at Kedimai in the Manipur Hills."

Having obtained specimens of this bird at Shillong in June 1875, I can add a few additional notes from birds in the flesh. The specimen first described is evidently in an immature stage of plumage. In the adult, the lores are pale over the eye also, the border of lower mandible is white, the under surface is more rufous, there is no sign of white tippings to the breast or abdominal feathers, the irides are red-brown, and the legs pale horny.

In the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, where Mr. Oustalet very kindly got out for my inspection the fine series of birds collected by Père Armand David in Moupin, Setehuan, &c., there is a *Pnoepyga* very close to this form, the *P. Halsneti* of A. David, which is speckled all over with whitish on a pale umber-brown, has a pale rufous moustachial streak, a white throat, and a finely barred tail.

335. *RIMATOR MALACOPTILUS*, Blyth.

Manipur Hills.

362. *MERULA ALBOCINCTA*, Royle.

Remta, Manipur Hills.

W. 5·65 inches, T. 4·1, t. 1·5, Bf. 0·78.

367a. *TURDUS PALLIDUS*, Gmelin.

375. *PARADOXORNIS RUFICEPS*, Blyth.

Hemeo Peak, North Caehar.

377. *CHELENASICUS RUFICEPS*, Blyth.

Baladhan, Caehar.

378a. *SUTHORA MUNIPURENSIS*, G-Austen and Walden.

Described in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 250 as follows:—

"Crown of head cinnamon-brown, becoming more olivaceous or fulvous green on back; shoulder of wing greenish umber. Primaries black, the first four edged white, the rest crossed with a bright fulvous bar on the outer webs; the secondaries edged broadly with fulvous, and a few of the last tipped white on inner web. Tail ruddy fulvous at base, paling towards the end, which is dusky and indistinctly barred, a broad supercilium

black, lores and narrow circle round the eye pure white. Ear-coverts and side of neck grey; chin and throat black, merging into pearly grey and white on the breast; under tail-coverts pure white."

"Length 4·5 inches, wing 1·8, tail 2·4, tarsus ·77, bill at front 0·28."

This is another fine species discovered by Mr. Wm. Robert, near Karakul, in the Muniपुर Hills. Several more specimens were shot in the following field-season by Mr. Chennell, in the Eastern Nágá Hills. A second species very close to it was discovered by myself in the Daffa Hills, and named *S. Daffaensis*. This may be known by its smaller size, far brighter crown, and grey chin instead of the jet black one of *S. Manipurensis*.

386a. *PYCTORHIS ALTIROSTRIS*, Jerdon. Plate IX.

I have alluded to this species in my 'List of Birds from the Daffa Hills.' There is I find a specimen among the birds collected the same season by Mr. A. Chennell in the neighbourhood of Sibsagar. For some time I failed to discover what had become of the type, but, Mr. Sharpe having since found it in the British Museum and very kindly called my attention to it, I have been enabled to compare my specimen. I do not hesitate to pronounce the two the same, although Dr. Jerdon's specimen is somewhat different in colouration, being whiter on the chin and upper breast; it is, however, paler throughout and appears to me to have faded considerably, having all the appearance of having been packed in a damp state, with perhaps some carbolie powder. Some skins of mine that got damp in transit to Calcutta, I noticed, lost much of their brilliancy. The dimensions are the same.

This bird ought to be found again in the high grass of upper Burmah, and no doubt would be found, if zealously looked for.

388a. *ALCIPPE FUSCA*, n. sp.

Above—head and nape dull grey; back olivaceous ochre, richer and more ochraceous on the rump. Tail umber-brown edged with the same colour as the back. Wing rich ochry brown, fulvescent ochre inside as well as on the flanks and thighs. Ear-coverts dull brown, chin sullied white. Bill and legs horny. Irides?

L. about 5·75 inches, W. 2·85, T. 2·7, t. 0·87, Bf. 0·47.

The above dimensions taken from skin.

HAB.—Four specimens were obtained by Mr. A. W. Chennell in the Nágá Hills.

Having remembered to have seen a very similar bird in the Jardin des Plantes, I forwarded a specimen to M. Oustalet, who very kindly examined it and gave me the following particulars:—It has a strong likeness to an *Alcippe* from Fokien named by M. A. David, *Alcippe Hueti*;

the tint of the head, back, and abdomen are nearly the same, but there are differences worthy of notice. 1st, *A. Hueti* has the bill decidedly shorter than *A. fusca*, 11 millims. instead of 13, taking the measurement along the culmen, and 14 instead of 18, from the gape; the tarsus having the same dimensions in the two birds. 2ndly, the chin and the upper part of the breast are pure grey, and not pale fulvescent (*fauve clair*), as in *A. fusca*. 3rdly, the tint of the flanks is less fulvescent ochre, more mixed with green. 4thly, the internal webs of the tail-feathers are scarcely darker than the external, instead of being blackish as in *A. fusca*. Lastly, the wing is shorter, 0.65 mill. against 0.72 mill. M. Oustalet is of opinion that the two are quite distinct though closely allied, *A. Hueti* being nearer to *A. Nipalensis*. Another close form is *A. Morrisonia* from Formosa, which differs in being more rufous above, grey-checked, and smaller.

391a. SPHENOCICHLA ROBERTI, Wald. and G-Aust. Plate VI.

The original description in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 251, is as follows:—

"General colouration throughout dark umber-brown, richer on the wings and tail, which are closely barred with black; feathers of the nape and back edged with darker brown, and with an inconspicuous pale spot near tip; these spots are more defined on the side of the neck. The feathers of the throat, neck, and breast are lanceolate, with a white edging showing as V-shaped markings; towards the abdomen these become less conspicuous, and only a few white spots dot the flanks. Bill grey, pale beneath and at tip.

"Length about 6.5 inches, wing 2.8, tail 3.0, tarsus 0.93, bill at front 0.87, depth at base 0.40.

"Shot on Hemeo* Peak, North Cachar hills, and also in the Manipur Hills."

A second species of this new genus from the Nágá hills was a highly interesting prize, and it is one of the finest things for which we are indebted to Mr. Wm. Robert. The form from the Darjeeling hills is quite distinct: is a much smaller bird, without any V-shaped markings on the side of the neck and breast, and of a different tint of brown; the bill, moreover, is not so compressed and wedge-shaped above—a character that links it to *Stachyris nigriceps*, which in its dark coloured head approaches the same kind of colouration.

406. XIPHORHAMPHUS SUPERCILIARIS, Blyth.

Konchungbum Peak, Manipur Hills. Similar in every respect to the Darjeeling bird.

* *Hemes* by mistake in the 'Ibis.'

498. *RUTICILLA HODGSONII*, Moore.

From the Eastern Nágá Hills.

♂ L. about 6 inches, W. 3·28, T. 2·85, t. 0·90, Bf. 0·40.

A young female is thus described in my note-book:—

Olive brown above, upper tail-coverts and tail pale rufous, central feathers brown. Wing umber-brown, the primary coverts faintly tipped dusky; the outer and basal half of the secondaries white. Throat and upper breast dusky brown; whitish on the middle of the abdomen; under tail-coverts very pale rufous.

W. 2·85 inches, T. (frayed) 2·3, t. 0·9, Bf. 0·45.

541. *CISTICOLA TYTLERI*, Blyth.

Sengmai, Manipur valley.

Compared with the type from Dacca in the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

This is a very distinct species, with very pale ochre head and breast, and tail black both above and below.

552*b*. *NIORNIS ALBIVENTRIS*, n. sp.

Above—dark rich umber-brown, paler on the shoulder of the wing; tail and wing of same colour. Chin sullied white, each feather slightly tipped dusky; the throat greyish white; upper breast crossed by a band of pale rufous; lower breast and abdomen white; flanks rufescent brown; under tail-coverts rusty; pale rusty inside the wing. A palish circle round the eye. Bill horny brown above, pale beneath. Irides?

L. about 4·75 inches, W. 2·1, T. 2·2, t. 0·87, Bf. 0·45, hind toe and claw 0·58, mid toe and claw 0·80.

HAB.—Sengmai, Manipur valley. Obtained by Mr. W. Robert.

It is very close to *Niornis assimilis*, Hodgson, but is larger and more strongly built, and of darker plumage throughout, for whereas the latter is of a greenish hue generally, the above form is rufescent. The tarsi and feet are particularly strong and the mid-toe very long. The bill is identical as regards the nostrils, but is rather deeper and stronger.

610. *PTERYTHRIS RUFIVENTER*, Blyth.

619*a*. *MINLA RUFIGULARIS*, Mandelli, S. F., p. 416, July 1873.

M. collaris, Walden, August 1874.

Included in 'List of Daffa Birds.'

Until our bird is compared with Mr. Mandelli's from Darjeeling we do not know for certain that they are identical.

619*b*. MINLA MANDELLII, Godwin-Austen.

Was described in the *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* January 1876, and included in the 'List of Birds of the Daffa Hills', with full description. It is a very common bird in the Nágá hill-ranges. I noticed a bird in the collection at the Jardin des Plantes from Western China very closely allied to these two species, named by A. David *Ixulus superciliaris*: the head above brown; back greyish olivaceous; tail dull rufous brown; a black supercilium from behind the eye to the nape; lores pale; throat and breast dull white; flanks greyish.

686*a*. ACRIDOTHERES ALBOCINCTA, Wald. and Aust. Plate V.

Is thus described in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 251:—

"Top of head glossy black, feathers rather elongated, and a white collar on back of neck; back dull grey-black, with a slight green tinge, and with a tendency to purple on the shoulders and wing-coverts. Tail black with green reflections. Primaries black, white at base, forming a wing-band; secondaries warm sepia-brown. Beneath dull but dark greenish grey. Upper tail-coverts black, tipped white, and arranged in bars. All the tail-feathers tipped with white, except the two centre ones. Bill and legs yellow.

"Length about 9 inches, wing 5, tail 3·5, tarsus 1·4, bill at front 0·91."

Appears numerous in the Muniপুর valley, where it was obtained by Mr. Wm. Robert, another important discovery by that indefatigable collector.

727. MYCEROBUS MELANOXANTHUS, Hodgson.

From Konchungbum, Muniপুর, obtained by Mr. Wm. Robert.

♂	W. 4·9 inches,	T. 3·2,	t. 0·82,	Bf. 0·85.
♀	4·6 "	2·8,	0·80,	0·83.

736. PROPYRRHULA SUBHEMACHALA, Hodgson.

Remta, Muniপুর.

750. CHRYSOMITRIS SPINOIDES, Vigors.

From Khajinghon, Muniপুর.

867. SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA, Lin.

The woodcock was now and then flushed in the woods of the Nágá Hills, but was not common.

Additional notes on the Birds of previous Lists.

MICRONISUS BADIUS, Gmelin.

There are in the collection two specimens, one an adult and one in immature plumage, from the Eastern Nágá Hills. Jerdon remarks that there is a dusky reddish nape, only conspicuous when the head is bent forwards: in my specimen this is far more pronounced and forms a dull rusty band quite half an inch wide. In the young bird this rusty band is also to be seen coming in on the sides of the neck but not quite meeting in the middle, agreeing with a description of an adult by Mr. A. O. Hume in his 'Scrap Book,' p. 121.

205. HIEROCOCCYX VARIUS.

Of 'Fourth List' should be *H. sparverioides*, Vigor.

SIPHIA SUPERCILIARIS, ♀.

I refer a specimen from the Nágá Hills to the female of the above, and give a description of it, as none is to be found in Jerdon, among whose collection of drawings is a figure of the same sex with dimensions.

Above—head and back dullish olivaceous green; wing umber-brown with rather strong rufous edgings; tail the same colour, with only the faintest rufous tinge. Chin dull pale ferruginous; breast darker, with a sordid green tinge on the flanks; under tail-coverts white, as also the extreme base of both webs of the outer tail-feathers, which in this respect assimilate with those of the male, where we find a greater extent of white.

	L.	W.	T.	t.	Bf.
Nágá Bird: about	4 inches,	2.2,	1.65,	0.67,	0.37.
Dr. Jerdon's } measurements. }	$4\frac{1}{4}$,,	$2\frac{3}{16}$	$1\frac{5}{8}$,	$\frac{1}{16}$,	$\frac{1}{4}$.

MUSCICAPULA ÆSTIGMA, Hodgson. ♀

I am indebted to Mr. A. W. Chemell of the Topographical Survey for this specimen. I had previously obtained several males at Shillong Peak and in the forest near Mairang, but had never secured a female. Dr. Jerdon had apparently seen the male only, for no description of the female is given by him.

Above ashy, with an olivaceous tinge, rather rusty near base of bill; wings and tail plain umber-brown. Beneath sordid white.

W. 2.22 inches, T. 1.6, t. 0.61, Bf. 0.35.

VOLVOCIVORA MELASCHISTOS, Hodgson.

As the description of immature forms is of great interest, and as none is given in the 'Birds of India,' I append one of a young male of this species obtained at Shillong.

Above—pale ochraceous mottled with black on the head, barred with the same on lower part of back, each feather having a subterminal black band, grey at base; primaries and secondaries, especially the latter, are all tipped cream colour, as well as the primary and lesser coverts, forming two distinct bands; tail-feathers all tipped white, the outermost broadly so. Beneath—greyish white tinged with pale rusty and barred pale grey.

This young bird was shot about the middle of June.

PARADOXORNIS AUSTENI, Gould.

Extends into the mountain region of Western China. Examples were obtained by Père Armand David, and are in the collection at the Jardin des Plantes.

LAYARDIA RUBIGINOSUS, G-Austen.

In the dimensions given of this bird, in 'Fourth List' (J. A. S. B. Pt. II. 1874 p. 164), the tarsus should be 1.16 not 1.6 inches.

532. PRINIA FLAVIVENTRIS.

Lord Walden, in his Supplemental Notes to Blyth's Catalogue of the Birds of Burmah (J. A. S. B., 1875, p. 118), alludes to the presence of a well-marked white supercilium in examples of this species from Manipur; it is not, however, a constant character even there. Among the specimens last obtained near Tezpur, Assam valley, some have the whole side of the head dark grey even to the lores, and noticing the variation I made a drawing of it at the time from a fresh bird. We thus have an interesting gradation from this state of plumage into one with pale lores and yet another where this is developed into a well marked supercilium.

IXULUS STRIATUS, Blyth.

Of "First List," p. 109, is *Ixulus castaniceps*, Moore.

IXULUS CASTANICEPS.

Of 'Fourth List,' p. 169, is a new species. Dr. Jerdon, who had never seen true *Ixulus castaniceps* described by Moore, when looking over my first collection at Cherra Poonjee, gave it the above title. I have since described it under the name of *Minla Mandellii* in Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. Jan. 1876, and the description has been repeated in full in the 'List of Birds from the Daffa Hills'. It may after all be Mr. Hume's *Proparus dubius*.

SPHENOCERCUS SPHENURUS, Vigors.

In the collection under review, specimens of this bird have red feet and legs, as described in Jerdon; curiously enough, however, Khasi Hill birds, obtained near Shillong in May, have them yellow, and hence it was that when recording the specimens in my field-note-book, I entered them under the genus *Crocopus*: in no other point can I detect the slightest difference.

795. TURTUR SURATENSIS, Gmelin, white var.

This very pretty albinoid variety is rather smaller in size than ordinary specimens. It is white throughout, the black of the nuchal patch with the white spots being replaced by pale ash-grey, as well as the darker portions of the wing and base of the tail-feathers. This interesting variety was shot at Lakhipur in Kachar.

82. ARBORICOLA TORQUEOLA, var.

In my last list I recorded a female of *A. rufogularis* from the Nágá Hills, no male having been seen. Among Mr. Robert's birds there are several fine wood-partridges with red heads, and from the same locality another female similar to the one I got under Japvo Peak in 1872—73. This I now refer to *A. torqueola*, instead of to *A. rufogulare*, the place of which in the list must be taken by the former name. Compared with *A. torqueola* from the Simla Hills, N. W. Himalaya, there are several small but well-marked variations, entitling the Nágá bird to be considered a variety. The legs of the above-mentioned female are, I find, recorded in my field-book as pale fleshy violet, and if Jerdon is right in giving *red* as the colour of those of *A. torqueola* (which I find is the colour noted of a specimen of *A. intermedia* from the Nágá Hills obtained at the same time and place), the Nágá bird would be worthy of a new title. Do the legs of the males and females differ?

347. HYDROBATA ASIATICA, Swainson.

This bird is pretty numerous in the streams that flow from the peak of Shillong. Jerdon does not mention the remarkable white circle round the eyes. The adult plumage is as follows:—

Above—dark dull umber-brown; beneath and sides of head sooty black. A lunular white patch both above and below the eye, the lower being the larger; this is its most characteristic point, and it is very conspicuous in the living bird, but in a badly skinned specimen is not to be made out. Irides dark brown. Legs dark brown; the scutæ in front of tarsus pale leadgrey. Bill black.

Length about 8 inches, W. 3·8, T. 2·4, t. 1·3, Bf. 0·87.

During the months of May and June, great numbers of different species of *Drymoccinae* are to be found breeding on the high grass-lands of

the Khasi Hills, and I came upon a large number of their prettily constructed nests, and secured the eggs of *S. fuliginosa*, *Cisticola schanicola*, *Prinia Hodgsoni*, &c., the old birds of which I shot at the time. These nests were generally about two feet above the ground, and constructed of fine grasses, the leaves and stems of which were all drawn in together and the leaves often threaded through with the finer fibres.

XVI.—Contributions towards a Knowledge of the Burmese Flora.

By S. KURZ.

(Continued from Vol. XLIV, p. 190).

SABIACEÆ.

Conspectus of Genera.

1. SABIA. Stamens 4—5, all perfect. Ovary 2—3-lobed. Drupes usually compressed.
2. MELIOSMA. Stamens 5, very unequal. Ovary 2—3-celled. Drupes more or less globose.

Sabia, Coleb.

Conspectus of Species.

* *Glabrous. Flowers panicled.*

Flowers about a line across, the pedicels short and thick; leaves coriaceous, *S. limoniacea*. Flowers nearly 4 lin. in diameter, the pedicels capillary and long; leaves membranous, *S. viridissima*.

* * *Branchlets and leaf-nerves beneath tomentose; panicles glabrous, S. tomentosa.*

1. S. LIMONIACEA, Wall. Cat. 1000; Hf. Ind. Fl. II. 3.—(*S. sp.* Griff. Not. Dicot. 423. t. 568. f. 2).

HAB. Chittagong.

2. S. VIRIDISSIMA, Kurz in Journ. As. Soc. Beng. 1872, 304; Hf. Ind. Fl. II. 3.

HAB. Not unfrequent in the tropical forests of South Andaman, especially along the western coast.—Fl. May.

Meliosma, Bl.

1. M. SIMPLICIFOLIA, Bl. in Rumph. III. 197; Miq. Fl. Ind. Bat. I/2 613; Hf. Ind. Fl. II. 5 (*Millingtonia simplicifolia*, Roxb. Corom. Pl. III. t. 254 and Fl. Ind. I. 103; Griff. Not. Dicot. 162. t. 442; *Sabia? floribunda*, Miq. Suppl. Fl. Sum. 521).

HAB. Tropical forests of Tenasserim, from Moulmein southwards; Ava hills; also Chittagong.—Fl. March, Apr.



J.Smit del. et lith.

M.&N. Hanhart imp.

ACRIDOTHERES ALBOCINCTA.



SPHENOCICHLA ROBERTI.



PYCTORHIS ALTIROSTRIS.